He also complained against the practice of registering large areas in the names of single individuals as that benefited only the foreigners and wealthy Government officers to the detriment of real agriculturists. He therefore prayed that it be ruled that more than five acres should not be registered in the name of a single individual.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

8. Reduction of the tharavila on lands reclaimed from backwaters.

Mr. K. Velayudha Panikkan (Member, Nominated) said that the Arayars lived mainly on the coast in Central Travancore and that their chief occupations were fish and coir industries. They were badly in need of sites for their habitation, the want of which retarded the progress of the industries to a great extent. It was not possible for them to go in for the registry of puduval lands in the interior, as their industries were centred on the coast. They could not take registry of kayal porambokes in their names on account of the prohibitive tharavila and assessment on such lands. The Member therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to order the registry of kayal porambokes in their names recovering tharavila and assessment at rates not exceeding Rs. 15 and Re. 1, respectively, per acre.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Necessity for a uniform rate of tharavila and assessment on puduval and poramboke lands.

Mr. K. Kochukunju Kurup (Member, Changanachery taluk) said that, though clause (6) of Rule 11 of the Puduval Rules, dated the 24th September 1914, fixed a minimum rate of tharavila of Rs. 25 per acre on reclamations from rivers, canals and backwaters, there were cases, in certain pakuthies of the Changanachery taluk, in which the rate had gone so high as Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per cent. It required more than a thousand rupees to reclaim an acre of land and, with the tharavila, the price of land came to about Rs. 2,500 per acre, which was more than the market value of land in those pakuthies. If the prohibitive tharavila was not paid, the authorities put up the lands to auction and the original reclaimer lost his investment. There was also a similar complaint in regard to fixing the assessment on puduval lands. Para 6 of Rule 16 of the Puduval Rules laid down that, for puduval lands registered as wet, the rate of assessment should be fixed on the basis of the schedule of settlement rates for wet lands and on the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood. The Member pointed out that the analogy of the registered wet lands in the neighbourhood was never taken into consideration and he quoted a few instances of departure from the wholesome rule. In view of the above difficulties and hardships, the Member prayed that a maximum rate of tharavila be fixed, which should not under any circumstances be exceeded, and also that instructions be issued to pay due regard to the tharam of neighbouring registered lands, in fixing the rate of assessment for puduval lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

10. Revision of the tharavila on cardamom lands.

Mr. Sanyasi Mallayan Chetty (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the raising of the tharavila on cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre towards the close of 1089 fell heavily on the cardamom ryots. The season was not, in recent years, suitable for cardamom cultivation and the yield had therefore fallen very low. Further, owing to the war, the price of cardamom had also gone down. The condition of the cardamom ryots was very miserable at the present day and, if sympathetic aid were not accorded to them, they would be reduced to utter poverty. He represented that, in spite of the Government order cancelling the penal assessment imposed by the Commissioner, on cardamom lands occupied without permission, the amount realized under that head was not returned to the ryots who had paid the same.

Dewan.—The order was not intended to have retrospective effect and the refund of the amount already realized cannot be made.

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The Member, continuing, prayed that, in the case of applications for cardamom lands made prior to the order raising tharavila, the tharavila should be realized only at the old rate of Rs. 10 per acre, and that the enhanced rate of Rs. 25 per acre might be recovered on applications subsequent to the order and the same realized in 10 or 12 yearly instalments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The tharavila is now realized in six instalments. It is not possible to grant any further concession in this respect.

11. Modification of the Kuthagapattom Rules.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that it was an unwise policy on the part of the Revenue and Irrigation Departments to sell away the usufruct of trees, especially green manure trees, standing on porambokes even where those trees were planted by the ryots and were in their actual enjoyment. The Member thought that the introduction of such a change without sufficient grounds, ignoring the vested rights of the ryots, was a matter for real grievance. It was with the tacit permission of the Government that the ryots planted manure trees on the banks of rivers, tanks, on the slopes of road-sides, etc., and the Government encouraged the planting of such trees on all available porambokes, as evidenced by Huzur order No. 1997, dated the 24th Purattasy 1057, which instructed the local officers to preserve intact green manure trees planted by the ryots on porambokes. Several of the porambokes came under the heads "Attuvarampu" and "Kulavarampu" and were in the possession of the ryots on payment of a small tharapattom, with the liberty to plant trees thereon. At the recent settlement, all such lands were converted into porambokes and the Government thereupon stopped the levy of the tharapattom but did not interfere with the possession of the ryots in any other way. The ryots, in some cases, were still under the belief that the Government had no sort of claim over such trees as the trees were not acquired by them on payment of compensation, and as the possession of the ryots was not interfered with. During the last administration, several of those trees were leased to the owners on a small rent varying with the nature of each tree and the use for which it was intended, for no fixed period. Even in such cases, the Government recognised the rights of the owners for the full enjoyment of the trees, and G. O. No. L. R. 12,446, dated the 30th September 1908, empowered the Division Peishkars to sanction the registry, on kuthagapattom, of trees standing on any Sirkar land though the latter might not be available for registry, subject to the condition that the registry-holder of such trees should not plant any new trees on the land concerned, but could remove the registered trees when he was called upon to vacate the land. The persons, who had already entered on kuthagapattom contract with the Government, were thus in a better position and the Irrigation and Revenue Departments did not interfere with them. Nor were the holders of contracts in respect of thanathuchitta lands affected by the recent rules.

The new Kuthagapattom Rules provided for the sale in auction of the produce of trees on porambokes for definite periods by the departments concerned. The order applied indiscriminately to all kinds of trees standing on porambokes, whether planted by the Government, grown naturally, planted by private persons but acquired by Government on payment of compensation, or planted by private persons and long enjoyed by them as owners. The last case deserved differential treatment. The Member therefore proposed that the Government should levy and exact from such persons only a nominal pattom without interfering with their rights of enjoyment and that they should be permitted to remove the trees whenever it was found not possible to come to an agreement in respect of the amount of pattom to be fixed or when they were called upon to vacate the land. The pattom should bear some proportion to the tax levied on productive trees at the time of settlement and in any case should not exceed it. The Member prayed that the question might receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government, having regard also to the fact that manure supply was decreasing rapidly in South Travancore with the increasing conversion of lands.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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